

A New Species of *Bregmatothrips* from the West (Thysanoptera: Thripidae)

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For the most part, representatives of *Bregmatothrips* are southern insects, inhabiting tropical, subtropical or very warm temperate grasslands. One species in North America is the exception. That species, *venustus* Hood, extends northward from near Mexico City into central Illinois.

To the north this genus is replaced, naturally in Europe and accidentally established by man in North America, by the biologically equivalent genera *Limothrips* and *Iridothrips*. These equivalent genera are also related to *Bregmatothrips*.

Superficially *Bregmatothrips* most closely resembles *Iridothrips* but the two genera can be easily distinguished by a comparison of the characteristics listed in the following table. *Limothrips* differs from either by having accessory sternal setae in addition to the posterior setae.

Characteristic	<i>Bregmatothrips</i>	<i>Iridothrips</i>
Mouth cone	pointed	bluntly rounded
Metaspinisternum	pointed, fig. 1	truncate, fig. 2
Major anterolateral prothoracic setae	mesad of anterolateral corner	At anterolateral corner
Fore vein of fore wing	with interrupted row of setae	with evenly spaced row of setae
Abdominal segment X	shorter than segment IX	longer than segment IX

In a collection of specimens received several years ago from my friend Dr. D. M. Tuttle of the University of Arizona, there was included an apparently new species of *Bregmatothrips*. This species is described herein.

Bregmatothrips sonorensis new species

Female (macropterous).—Length distended, about 1.5 mm. Generally dark brown in color. Yellow: antennal segments III, three-fourths of IV, and the mid portion to three-fourths of V;

apical half of the fore tarsi; extreme apex of mid and hind tarsi; and all tibiae. Fore wings light gray.

Head slightly longer than width across cheeks. Ocelli present. Intercellar setae well developed, placed one on either side of fore ocellus. Pronotum with two pairs of well developed epimeral setae; mid posterior, lateral and anterolateral setae not as long; anterolateral setae each placed considerably inside anterolateral angle. Abdominal sterna without accessory setae in addition to posterior ones.

Male (brachypterous).—Length fully distended over 1.2 mm. Bicolored brown and yellow. Brown: head; antennal segments I, II except apex, apex of IV and V, and all of VI to VIII; outer edge of hind tibiae; and abdominal segments II to X. Rest of body yellow.

Ocelli absent. Abdominal sternal glandular areas absent. Abdominal tergum IX without thorn-like spines.

Holotype.—Female; Yuma, ARIZONA; University of Arizona Experimental Farm; April 16, 1952; (D. M. Tuttle). *Allotype*.—Male; same data as for holotype. *Paratypes*.—2 ♀, 2 ♂; same data as for holotype. Types deposited in the collections of the Illinois Natural History Survey.

Additional records.—1 ♀, 1 ♂; Davis, California; July 24 and December 2, 1939; (S. F. Bailey); from bermuda grass.

Previously the Sonoran populations had been lumped with the midwestern populations under the name *venustus*. Yet these western populations are more easily differentiated from typical specimens of *venustus* than the floridian *gracilis* Hood is from *venustus*, and if members of the taxon *gracilis* deserve specific recognition so also do the western forms.

Going from west to east, the Nearctic *Bregmatothrips* become progressively lighter in color, particularly in the female. The western form, *sonorensis*, has the tibiae dark brown and has a dark apical ring on antennal segment V. The midwestern segregate, *venustus*, has the tibiae mostly yellow and antennal segment V is entirely yellow. *Bregmatothrips venustus* also shows some evidence of yellow in the basal half of antennal segment VI. Farther to the east, in Florida, *gracilis* (= *Limocercyo-*

thrips bicolor Watson) is still lighter in that the base of antennal segment VI is entirely yellow without brown overtones. Otherwise *gracilis* is almost like *venustus*.

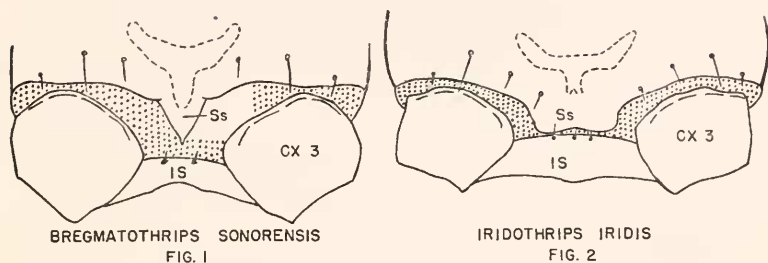


FIG. 1. *Bregmatothrips sonorensis* new species, holotype ♀.
 FIG. 2. *Iridothrips iridis* (Watson), ♀ specimen from the U. S. National Museum collected in Boskoop, Holland.

Abbreviations: Ss—metaspinisternum; IS—abdominal sternum I; CX₃—hind coxa.

The species *sonorensis* occupies the crescent from Davis, California to Yuma, Arizona; *venustus* extends from the central part of the United States of America east of the 100 meridian south to the Mexican state of Morelos; and *gracilis* occupies northern Florida. Whether or not any of these species have contiguous ranges or intergrading populations is not known as yet. I strongly suspect that *venustus* and *gracilis* are geographical variants of a single species and that in some southern state they intergrade imperceptibly from one to the other.

Before me is still another species, undescribed, from Chiapas, Mexico. Moulton's record of *venustus* in Cuba was not verified for this paper.